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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Cyprus

DATE DISTR. 7 AUG 50

SUBJECT Disputed Succession to the
Archbishopric of Cyprus

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The death of Makarios, Archbishop of Cyprus, has upset the program of the Cypriote Delegation to Athens,* and the important question now is the succession to the episcopal throne. The Cypriote Delegation feels that Kyriakides, Bishop of Kyrenia, one of its members, must be present in Cyprus in order to succeed to the Archbishop's throne.
2. The principal candidates to succeed Makarios are the Bishop of Kyrenia and the Bishop of Kition.**
3. The name of Panteleimon, Metropolitan of Gjinokaster, Albania,** has been mentioned as a possible successor, if he is willing to resign from his present See which is now under communist control. The Cypriote Brotherhood in Athens is discussing the advisability of finding a candidate outside Cyprus, in order to avoid the necessity of making a choice between the two Cypriote Bishops. They are afraid that such a choice will divide the Cypriotes into two hostile camps, and that this will injure the cause of enosis.

Comment. Except among extreme Rightists, the Bishop of Kition is considered as the better man in every respect, although he is criticized as being more of a politician than a churchman should be.

Comment. Panteleimon has lived outside of Albania since 1944.

This document is hereby regraded to
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letter of 13 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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